

CO-OPERATION
Between Wage Earner and
Local Business Interests
Brings Community
Prosperity

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THE FARMER

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

AUGUSTA, MAINE, TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1936

Justice for the Worker
Constructive Cooperation
and
A Square Deal for the
Employer

PRICE 5 CENTS

DEATH OF WAGNERS' RIGHTS EXPOSED MAINE LABORERS

Refusal to Bargain With Representatives of Employees, and Discrimination Against Union Members, Listed Among Violations of Wagner-Connelly Labor Relations Act.

Cases Cited Where Large Groups Were Discharged Because They Either Held Office in Local Unions or Attended Union Meetings—Violations of Act Also Occurred When Company Officials Refused to Meet Employees With a Determination Not to Bargain Collectively in Settlement of Disputes.

Recent orders issued by the National Labor Relations Board regarding three concerns to end their violations of the Wagner-Connelly Labor Disputes Act are outstanding illustrations of the continuance of anti-union policies by certain employers regardless of statutory provisions outlawing such practices.

The Wagner-Connelly Act makes it illegal to interfere with the right of employees to organize in bona fide trade unions and carry on normal trade union activities and prohibits employers from discriminating against employees because of their trade union membership and from refusing to bargain collectively with representatives of employees. In the three cases under consideration the Board found the employers guilty of these illegal practices and ordered their immediate cessation.

Union Boycotted, Strikers Blacklisted

The Railway Bearing Co., Inc., of Lawrence, N. H., in violation of the report of the Board, discharged two employees last July and August under

Official Proceedings
OF THE
Maine State
Federation of Labor
TO BE HELD IN
CALAIS, JUNE 9-12
WILL BE PRINTED IN THE JULY
ISSUE OF THE MAINE STATE
LABOR NEWS

A. F. of L. President
Denounces Murderous
Acts of Black Legion

That there is an established connection between the now notorious Black Legion and the organized system of anti-union labor spies, is the conviction of William Green, general secretary of the American Federation of Labor. In an interview with Attorney-General Cummings at Detroit, Mr. Green pressed home this belief and requested that the United States Department of Justice be asked to investigate the circumstances.

Several members of the Black Legion are on trial at Detroit on murder charges, growing out of the killing of a man who had incurred the hostility of that outlaw organization. One of the accused is a member of an affiliate of the A. F. of L. declared that the boundary line separating the legitimate labor union and the Black Legion could not be drawn. He said that the victim "knew too much" and talked too much about the inner affairs of the secret organization, and hence his ordered killing.

U. S. Senate Labor
Committee Approves
Wagner Housing Bill

The Wagner Housing bill, intended to furnish Federal aid for a three-year \$400,000,000 low-cost construction program, and which was strongly favored by the American Federation of Labor, was yesterday approved by the Senate Labor Committee.

Big Steel Union Votes to Join With C. I. O. to Unionize Industry

Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers Defies A. F. of L. and Will Start Organizing Campaign to Unionize 500,000 Steel Workers Under Industrial Plan, With John L. Lewis in Charge—Clothing Workers Stand Pat on A. F. of L.'s Edict.

Orders issued by the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to inform all unions affiliated with the Committee on Industrial Organization to disassociate themselves from the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, and its offer to the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers to assist in organizing the 500,000 steel workers of the nation under the craft union plan, according to press reports, is not making good progress.

The agreement between the Amalgamated Association and the C. I. O., announced last Saturday by the executive board, was two weeks after the organization's annual convention in Cranston, Pa., at which time it had been decided to carry on a campaign under the industrial union plan which had waived jurisdiction over steel workers. Following the action of the Amalgamated, none of the unions have announced their willingness to make such a concession.

According to the agreement between the Amalgamated and the C. I. O., the organizing committee shall be composed of such persons as are named by the chairman of the Committee on Industrial Organization in accordance

President Green Shows N. Y. Sun Estimate of Unemployment is Low

In a letter addressed to the New York Sun, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, estimates and analyzes the various conflicting estimates which have been made in the United States, covering the unemployment situation. He says that 130,000 workers are unemployed while the Federal government estimates the figure at 115,000, as of April, 1935.

Mr. Green points out that the estimate of the Sun includes little more than half the number of all the workers in the United States, covering mines, manufacturing, trade and transportation, in most of the reporting areas upon whose data the Sun's figures were based. Mr. Green estimates that the unemployment in the United States is not more than 10 per cent, as of April, 1935.

All this, President Green insists, is a practical avenue of employment, held to be seriously in error. All that, President Green insists, is a practical avenue of employment, held to be seriously in error. All that, President Green insists, is a practical avenue of employment, held to be seriously in error.

40-HOUR WEEK IN MASS INDUSTRIES MAIN PROBLEM DISCUSSED AT I. L. O. CONFERENCE, IN GENEVA, LAST WEEK

The International Labor Organization opened its sessions at Geneva last Thursday, with 400 delegates representing 41 countries. The United States has a full delegation, headed by Representative John G. Winant of New Hampshire.

The main problem before the conference is the establishment of a 40-hour week in the textile, iron and steel, and civil engineering industries in public works and coal mines. The vote is expected to be very close on these projects.

Mr. Winant and Miss Frieda Miller, director of the Division of Women in Industry of the New York State Department of Labor, are the U. S. government delegates.

Robert B. Folsom, treasurer of the Eastman Kodak Company of Rochester, N. Y., represents the employers of the United States, and Emil Hieve, president of the American Federation of Public Employees, is the labor delegate.

The government advisers listed are:

I. L. O. MEETING IN GENEVA DRUGS FLOOD OF CENTRAL MAINS OF EUROPE COST

PROGRAM
Thirty-Second Annual Convention
of the
Maine State Federation of Labor
NOOCONE HALL - CALAIS
JUNE 9 - 10 - 11 and 12, 1936

Chairman Convention Committee
Wilfred Gagnon, Paper Makers No. 146, Woodland

Tuesday, June 9, 1936, 10 A. M. Address—Smith Dunnack, Past Department Commissioner, American Legion, State of Maine.

Opening of Convention by William Shaw, President Woodland Central Labor Union.

Report of the Executive Committee of the Maine State Federation of Labor.

Address—L. J. Brann, Governor of Maine.

Address—Frank P. Benton, New England Representative, A. F. of L.

Address—Representative of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Address—Harry A. Russell, W. C. A. Education Bureau of America.

Address—Representative of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

Address—H. G. Baxter, Box and Shoe Workers International Union.

Address—Walter J. Brennan, State Highway Surveyor.

Address—Representative of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers.

Address—Representative of the International Brotherhood of Shipbuilders and Shipworkers.

Address—Representative of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Truck Drivers.

Address—Representative of the International Brotherhood of Tanners.

Address—Representative of the International Brotherhood of Tailors and Dressmakers.

Contention That State Has Not the Right to Establish Laws for Protection of Women and Children Staggering to Those Who Have Fought Years For Such Legislation.

"No Man's Land Where No Government Could Function," Says President Roosevelt—Decision Simply Emphasizes Necessity of a Constitutional Amendment, Mayor La Guardia Says—Constitution Has No Breath of Life, Declares Robert F. Watt—Opinions Differ Relative to Validity of Minimum Wage Laws in Massachusetts and Other States.

Few things have occurred in the past that have stirred up matters to such an extent as did the Supreme Court's decision on the New York State Minimum Wage law.

Not only does this adverse decision concern organized labor, which fought many years to have such a law put on the statute books, but all fair-minded people are concerned.

It is a question of the right of a state to legislate a minimum wage law.

Among those greatly disappointed over the Court's decision was President Roosevelt, who, when questioned

regarding the decision, said the Court had constituted an interpretation of the Constitution depriving both State and Federal government of any power to establish minimum wages.

"A No Man's Land," Strenuously Disputed and Majority Opinion, the Chief Executive said: "A No Man's Land where no government could function" had been declared.

Mayor La Guardia of New York City said the decision simply emphasizes the necessity of a Constitutional Amendment in accordance with the present and future economic needs of the country.

George A. Meany, president of the United States Federation of Labor, said the decision is a "blow" to the labor movement.

Robert F. Watt, secretary-treasurer of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor, said the decision is a "blow" to the labor movement.

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MOMENTOUS PROBLEMS SCHEDULED FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION OF MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR IN CALAIS TODAY

Outlining of Program for Coming Session of Legislature of Paramount Importance—Officers' Reports to Cover Progress of Movement From All Parts of State—Visit to Quoddy Project Principal Feature on Entertainment Program.

The principal function of the American Federation of Labor is legislative. While these are interested in the progress of the movement, the question of labor and unemployment is the question of labor and unemployment.

Hence, the importance of the annual convention of the Maine State Federation of Labor, which opened its sessions in Calais this morning at 10 o'clock.

Particular among legislative matters to be discussed at the Calais convention will be unemployment insurance, amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act, old age pensions and other security legislation.

Not less political in its general make-up, it is probable that because of diversified political thought at this time, the question will be brought on the floor for discussion. Goodly numbers of members throughout the State are favorable to forming a labor party, which would be known as the "New Party" and the Union for Social Justice.

These subjects have been the source of much discussion in local union meetings, and will undoubtedly be

MAINE "ALL SET" TO CARE FOR THOUSANDS WHO WILL FLOCK TO ALL PARTS OF STATE DURING SUMMER

Labor News Correspondent Writes Enthusiastically Over Prospects, Stating Number of Visitors Will Exceed All Previous Years—Sees Business as Holding Its Own in Some Industries While Operating "On All Fours" in Others—Quoddy Project to Attract Special Attention of Thousands of Visitors.

By RAYMOND R. GAUDRY

That Maine can look back to and having the greatest tourist business in its history this summer, is already assured by the fact that the number of inquiries being received from thousands of persons in all parts of the United States is increasing.

Millions of dollars will be spent in the Pine Tree State by the men, women and children who come here in the season, at summer camps for boys and girls, as well as family groups, and at the ever-increasingly popular beaches, lake and mountain resorts.

This season to business men in all lines of activity and to many of Maine's leading manufacturers as well is a boom that will be reflected in increased payrolls, thus giving employment to thousands of Maine people. This season to business men in all lines of activity and to many of Maine's leading manufacturers as well is a boom that will be reflected in increased payrolls, thus giving employment to thousands of Maine people.

GOVERNOR BRANN TAKES SENATORS HALE AND WHITE TO TASK BECAUSE OF VOTE DELAYING WORK ON QUODDY

Says Senator Hale Inserted "First Screech in Lid of Coffin" and Criticized Senator White for Supporting Hale's Demand for Separating Quoddy From Florida Coast Project, When Before Senate for Action.

According to Governor Louis J. Brann, the blame for the defeat administered the Quoddy project in the United States Senate last week can be attributed to failure on the part of Senator Hale, whose demand for a separate vote on Senator Robinson's resolution which included the Florida ship canal project with Quoddy.

Governor Brann's statement regarding Senator Hale's demand, this to the effect that the project should be separated from the Florida ship canal project, is a "blow" to the labor movement.

Senator Hale's insistence upon the separation of the Maine and Florida projects was the baying "first screech" in the lid of the coffin and the vote of the Senate last week was the final blow.

The handling of Quoddy by the Maine Senators has been bungled, to put it mildly. Had Senators Hale and White supported the Robinson resolution as it stood or, in its spirit, it would have passed the Senate with a majority of 70 to 20.

N. Y. Minimum Wage Decision Brings Flood of Criticism Against Supreme Court

(Continued from Page 1)

Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, is giving the decision through study, and is expected to have a draft prepared to present to the Legislature which they hope will be such as to make the law as effective as possible in Massachusetts.

It appears that the whole trouble which caused the case to come before the U. S. Supreme Court came from an obscure laundry proprietor, who, it is said, was prompted by "bigger men" to stand the gap. Present indications are the procedure was similar to that of the Schechter Bros., whose case brought about the downfall of the N. I. R. A. last year.

Rhode Island Law Not Nullified, Says Walling

The opinion of the Supreme Court invalidating the New York State minimum wage law will not necessarily mean an abandonment of Rhode Island law recently placed on the statute books by the Legislature.

Director Walling maintained that the decision of the high court invalidating the "mandatory provisions" of the law. For that reason, he intends to proceed as rapidly as possible with the establishment of minimum wage boards in Rhode Island.

Walling said that his opinion regarding the decision is shared by Dean Acheson, who argued in support of the law before the Supreme Court. Under the decision, Walling said, the States will be able to determine fair minimum wages and hours and may issue "director orders" as distinguished from "mandatory orders" to employers.

Gov. Green Deplores Ruling on Wages

Governor Green of Rhode Island, in commenting on the adverse decision, declared that it is unfortunate that this was done by a mere majority decision, because, he said, "it seems the popular demand was for such a law."

"It is more important that these matters be decided," he said, "than that they be decided right otherwise we would have anarchy and chaos. In some countries the legislative branch is supreme. In others, it is the administrative authority, but in this country the judicial is supreme. The people

themselves have created the constitutional system of checks and balances."

Republican Platform May Contain Minimum Wage Plank

Work on a platform, which began some time ago in informal talks among Republican leaders in Washington and elsewhere, was still going ahead with indications that the biggest stumbling block would be an agreement on what to say about the minimum wage decision of the Supreme Court last week.

The wage decision apparently caught the Republican platform makers with a dearth of tools and materials out of which to whittle a properly shaped plank.

There was much scattered discussion of a declaration for a constitutional amendment to permit the States

to enact minimum wage legislation.

Boston C. L. U. Hires U. S. Supreme Court

The Boston Central Labor Union at Sunday's meeting, referred resolutions to the resolutions committee for consideration and a recommendation which, if favorable, is expected to be accepted without debate.

One resolution charges that members of the United States Supreme Court, in their decision declaring the minimum wage for women and minors law unconstitutional, prove themselves unfriendly to labor, and calls on James T. Moriarty, Commissioner of Labor and Industries, to enforce to the extent of his power the law of Massachusetts, despite the decision.

WHY NOT DRAFT SUPREME COURT INTO SERVICE AND DEMAND THEY DRAW UP LAWS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM

Requested to express his opinion on the Supreme Court's decision on the New York Minimum Wage law, the following telegram was received from William L. Connolly, president of the Rhode Island State Federation and also president of the New England Conference of Typographical Unions.

"For years Labor has attempted honestly and conscientiously to improve the conditions of the working classes of the people of the United States. We have gone to the political field and endeavored to elect friends of Labor to our law-making bodies. We have worked night and day to draw up remedial legislation to benefit our people and eliminate the character from industry, and with this latest decision of the Supreme Court it looks as though we have labored in vain."

"We this august body set up a Man's Land in our capitalistic system? And if they have not, will they come forward and tell us how we can constitutionally do the things these laws were intended to do?"

"Why not draft the Supreme Court into service and insist they draw up laws that will be acceptable to them and will give to Labor the benefits they took away by their decisions in the N. R. A. the Guffey Coal Act and Minimum Wage Law?"

"Surely there must be some way these laws can be made constitutional without becoming ineffective. If they cannot or will not do this, Labor has but one course to follow and that is to work for legislation that will curb their unlimited power."

"Labor must first work to take away from the Supreme Court the right to overrule Congress and the President before it can hope to attain that which it has worked, fought and died for all these years."

"Labor must carry on!"

New Hampshire Wage Law Believed

Official administrators of New Hampshire's minimum fair wage law for women and minors were confident in their belief that the decision of the Supreme Court will not affect the op-

eration of the new law in that State.

"The State Labor Department was advised by Mary Anderson of the United States Department of Labor that the decision 'does not apply to minors in non-mandatory orders'."

The inference is that directory orders provided for in the New Hampshire law, with mandatory orders permitted as a last resort penalty, are within the constitutional limits laid down in the Supreme Court decision.

Directory orders, under the New Hampshire law, now affect 2500 workers in the laundry and restaurant businesses.

Connecticut Wage Law Will Remain in Force

Attorney General Edward J. Dwyer is quoted as having said the Connecticut Minimum Wage law would remain effective unless declared unconstitutional.

"The Connecticut law," said Dwyer in an informal opinion, "stands on its own feet. If it should be tested and found to be invalid, the courts would cease to be law. But until the court do declare it to be unconstitutional, it will remain the law of the state."

The state statute has a provision for fixing minimum wages by voluntary agreement, but the Labor Union minister has the power to make them mandatory. No wage scale has been made mandatory in this State.

Time Has Come to Demand Change in That Court

Mrs. Elmore M. Herrick, member of the New York State Minimum Wage Board, and vice-president of the Consumers' League, declared: "The majority of that court, under the guise of protecting the Constitution, have read their amendment out of the Constitution."

Sharply challenging the majority's action, "arbitrarily and from the standpoint of their personal bias," Mrs. Herrick said, "the time has come to demand a change in that court."

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